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In a May 6 press release, the Gerdau steel consortium announced that a US$7 million purchase contract for the Chilean Siderurgica Aza will be finalized by the end of the month. Gerdau is Brazil's largest private steel processing company. Annual output capacity of the Aza steel mill comes to 25,000 metric tons of raw steel, and 20,000 MT of rolled steel. In 1991, Gerdau purchased the Chilean firm Industria del Acero. The Brazilian company also owns the Uruguayan Laissa steel mill, and the Canadian Courtice Steel. Gerdau sales receipts for 1992 are projected at US$950 million. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 05/06/92)

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